

Letter to Attorney General



Aug. 7, 2012

Kamala Harris
Attorney General
State of California
1300 I St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Madam Attorney General:

We are writing to update you on a serious developing situation in the County of Orange and to request that you consider instigating an investigation into allegations of potentially illegal conduct by County of Orange officials.

This situation has emanated from the arrest of former Orange County Public Works Executive Manager and Santa Ana City Councilman Carlos Bustamante on a variety of sexual offenses, including six felony counts. A timeline summarizing the Bustamante case is attached to this correspondence.

One of the documents referred to in the timeline is a letter to the Board of Supervisors from the attorney for Deputy CEO Alisa Drakodaidis delivered on or about July 11, 2012, alleging possible illegal conduct. Both the Board and District Attorney Tony Rackaukus tried to block public access to that letter. It was only released after an action was filed in Orange County Superior Court by media outlet the Voice of OC to compel disclosure of the letter (a copy of that letter is attached).

Subsequently Ms. Drakodaidis's attorney appeared at the July 25, 2012, Board of Supervisors meeting and delivered a second letter to the Board alleging additional possible illegal conduct (a copy of that letter also is attached).

We request your intervention because of allegations that the District Attorney, Tony Rackaukus, has brought the charges against Mr. Bustamante as retribution for actions previously taken by County Chief Executive Tom Mauk that negatively impacted the county employment of the District Attorney's then-fiance, now wife, Peggy Buff. Further, there are accusations in news reports that Mr. Rackaukus collaborated with members of the Board of Supervisors to block the release of the July 11, 2012, letter.

Under the circumstances, it appears that the District Attorney may have a conflict of interest and may have already taken action in connection with these matters in collusion with members of the Board of Supervisors.

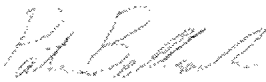
We hope that you will conduct an initial review of the propriety of the District Attorney's involvement in any investigation of possible illegal conduct by county officials. If you determine that his continued involvement would be inappropriate, we request that you intervene and commence your own investigation at the earliest possible time.

As the political accusations continue to swirl in the wake Mr. Bustamante's arrest, the victims of these alleged sexual crimes and the thousands of other women who work for the County of Orange need to have faith that this type of prolonged harassment and abuse will never be allowed to continue at the County again. The first step toward that healing is to ensure that an independent investigation occurs and that anyone who knew about these abuses but failed to intervene on behalf of these women is held accountable.

Thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely,

California NOW

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patty Bellasalma".

Patty Bellasalma
President

Orange County Employees Association

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nick Berardino".

Nick Berardino
General Manager